

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

### **I. General Remarks.**

Claims 21-35 are currently pending. Claims 1-20 were previously cancelled in response to a restriction requirement.

### **II. Remarks Regarding Species Election Requirement**

In the present office action, the Examiner has required an election of species in claim 21. *See* Office Action at 4. More specifically, the Examiner stated “[a] proppant having a specific tracking material, such as a specific salt or a specific organic compound, should be elected.” *Id.*

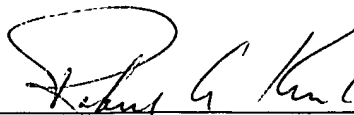
Accordingly, Applicants hereby elect metal salts as the substantially non-radioactive tracking material in claim 21. In accordance with this election requirement, Applicants identify claims 21, 23, 24, 26, and 29-31 as falling within these elected species. Applicants reserve their right to pursue additional species should a generic be allowed, or in a divisional or other continuing application.

## **SUMMARY**

In light of the above remarks and arguments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections. Applicant further submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits timely notice of the same. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone.

Applicant believes that there are no fees due in association with the filing of this Response. However, should the Commissioner deem that any additional fees are due, including any fees for extensions of time, the Commissioner is authorized to debit the deposit account of Halliburton Energy Services, Inc. No. 08-0300, for any underpayment of fees that may be due in association with this filing.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Kent", written over a horizontal line.

Date: October 23, 2006

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